



the status information data based on the character code. For this reason, the hard disk drive 15 on the host computer 10 contains the status sheet default file 51 as the form data for the printing images.

Fig. 4 shows the flow of the printing data file generation processing and the outline of the printing images. Using an AP (application program interface), the printing data generation module 21c generates the printing job instance, then reproduces, on the basis of the status sheet default file 51, the form of the printing images as shown in Fig. 4 for the printing job instance. Then, the printing data generation module 21c generates the character string corresponding to the status shown by the status information data on the basis of the status information that is written in the registry 22. Using the text output API, the module also superposes the character string images on the predetermined location of the printing image form that is already reproduced in the printing job instance. As a result, the printing images, as shown in Fig. 4(a), are generated, and then the dot image data is spooled as the printing data file 50.

The generated printing data file 50 is outputted from the parallel communication I/O interface 19b by the printing data output module 21d in the same way as the normal printing job. As a result, the printing data file 50 is received under the

control of the printing module 33d, and then the status information is outputted on the printer 30.

The following is the processing flow implemented by each module of the firmware of the printer driver 21 and the printer 30. Fig. 5 shows the main processing flow of the status information printing while the printer 30 is being driven. The step S100, which is the status information acquisition processing on the printer's side, performs the status information acquisition processing at the step S100 when the printer 30 is booted and the status is updated. The printer 30, usually in a standby state when printing is not performed, begins the appropriate processing when the status information output initiation instruction is performed or the printing job is inputted from the host computer 10. In other words, the status information output processing at the step 200 confirms whether the switch 36 is pushed, and the print processing at the step 300 confirms whether the printing job is inputted from the host computer 10.

Fig. 6 shows the processing flow of the status information acquisition on the printer's side at the step 100. The step 110 confirms whether the printer 30 is in the state that is immediately after the booting. In other word, in this embodiment there is the status information acquired only after the booting. When the step S110 confirms the printer 30 in the state which